



CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1

EMBARGO: 11.30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 24 DEC 1996

ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES DECEMBER 1996

MAIN FEATURES

EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,800,300 in November 1996, a decrease of 0.6% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.3% over the same period.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 228,100 in November 1996, a fall of 5.1% on the previous month and 5.4% lower than in November 1995. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November 1996 was 7.5% in NSW and 8.5% nationally.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW decreased by 5.2% from 18,905 in September 1996 to 17,914 in October 1996.

TOURISM

The number of guest nights for licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities in NSW for the September Quarter 1996 was 5,519,000, a decrease of 2.3% on September Quarter 1995.

BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in October 1996 was 3,671, an increase of 12.7% on the previous month and 7.8% higher than in October 1995.

FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in October 1996 fell by 1.8% from September 1996, but rose 20.9% from October 1995.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Private new capital expenditure in the September Quarter 1996 for NSW on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 12.0% since the previous quarter, but increased by 8.9% when compared with September Quarter 1995. Expenditure on new buildings and structures fell 6.9% from the previous quarter.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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Gregory W. Bray
Regional Director
New South Wales

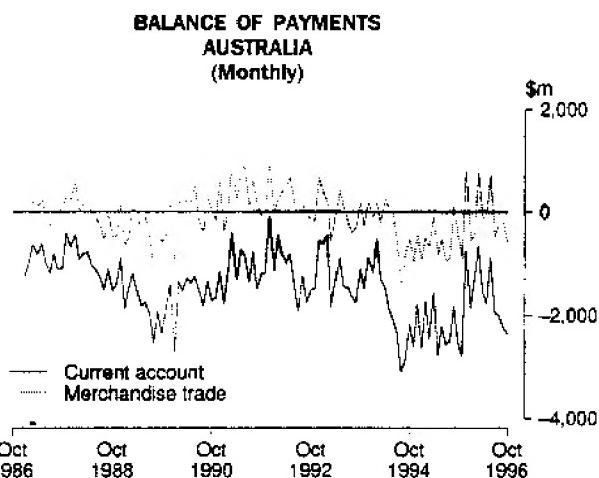
INQUIRIES:

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 9268 4376 or any ABS office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 9268 4611 or any ABS office.

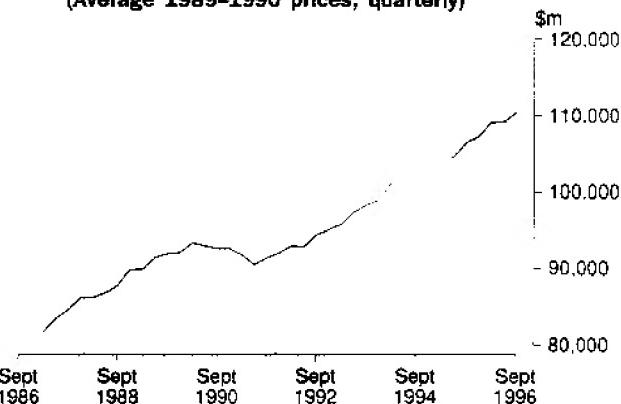
1

NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period			Change over year		
National accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—								
Gross non-farm product	%	Sep qtr 96	1.2			3.8		
Gross domestic product	%	Sep qtr 96	1.2			3.8		
			Figures for preceding periods					
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago	
Balance of payments—								
Merchandise exports	\$m	Oct 96	6 597	6 198	6 334	6 480	6 258	
Merchandise imports	\$m	Oct 96	-7 170	-6 389	-6 565	-6 945	-6 701	
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Oct 96	-573	-191	-231	-465	-443	
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Oct 96	-615	-563	-402	-400	-515	
Balance on current account	\$m	Oct 96	-2 367	-2 229	-1 985	-1 945	-2 543	
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Oct 96	-1 788	-1 690	-1 470	-1 315	-2 125	
Terms of trade for goods and services—		1989-90 =100	Sep qtr 96	97.5	97.7	95.8	93.9	94.0
Exchange Rates at end of period—								
\$US/\$A			Oct 96	0.7919	0.7924	0.7909	0.7731	0.7566
Trade weighted index of value \$A		May 1970 =100	Oct 96	58.6	58.5	57.9	56.5	54.3
Indicator Lending Rate—								
Bank loans to large businesses (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Oct 96	10.25	10.25	10.40	10.80	10.70	



**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)**

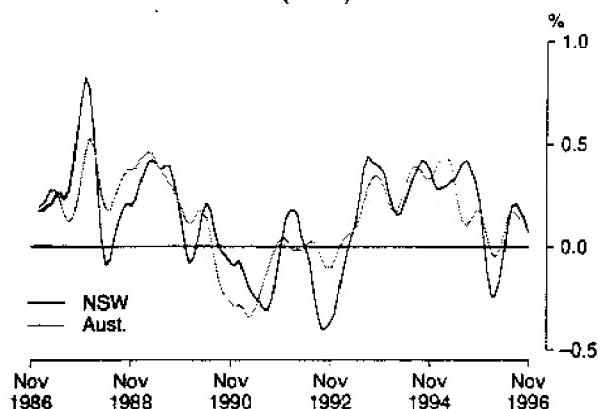


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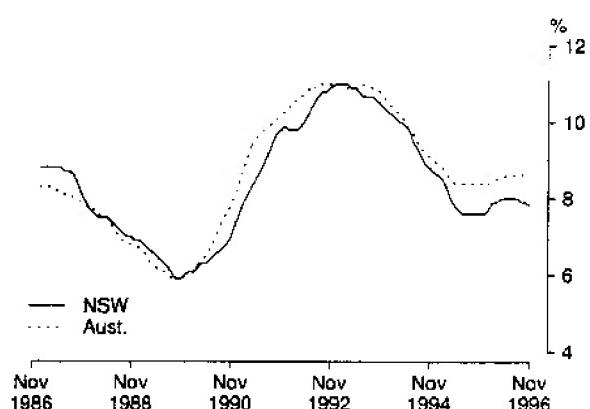
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
Indicator		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Nov 96	7.5	9.2	9.1	9.5	7.7	10.1	8.5
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Nov 96	-0.3	1.9	1.8	-0.1	1.4	-0.5	0.8
Consumer price index: all groups	Sep qtr 96	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.1
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Aug 96	4.3	2.8	2.9	3.5	4.9	4.4	3.7
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Oct 96	4.2	3.4	3.2	-1.6	-0.6	1.5	2.7
New motor vehicle registrations	Oct 96	0.5	14.5	-4.2	-7.7	22.7	2.1	4.2
Dwelling units approved	Oct 96	11.5	16.1	31.9	9.1	5.8	-15.6	15.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Oct 96	73.6	-46.5	3.2	-58.8	190.7	-35.5	19.1
Value of all buildings approved	Oct 96	42.4	-23.4	23.1	-29.1	57.8	-16.9	17.4
Value of engineering construction work done	Jun qtr 96	2.1	-5.8	2.3	11.5	79.2	0.6	10.4
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Sep qtr 96	-1.8	-0.8	-2.7	-2.8	1.5	-8.1	-1.8
Actual private new capital expenditure	Sep qtr 96	20.5	26.1	31.8	62.6	-16.3	-10.5	17.6

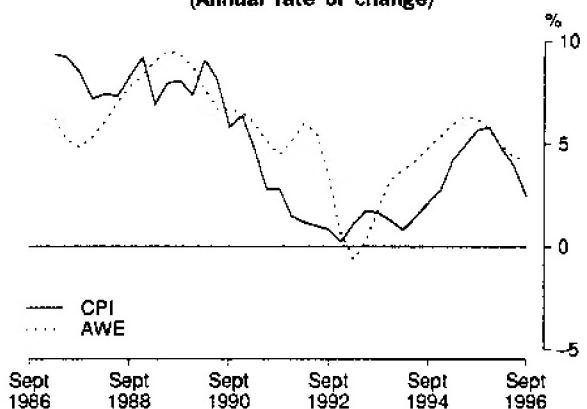
**MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
(Trend)**



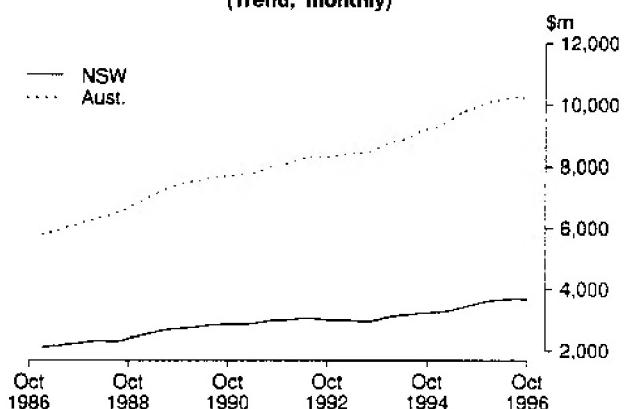
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Trend)**



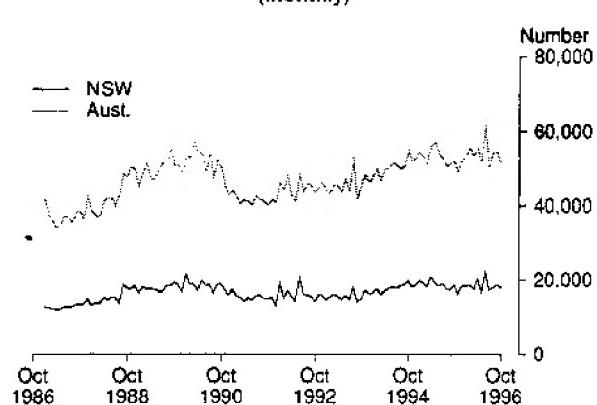
**PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW
(Annual rate of change)**



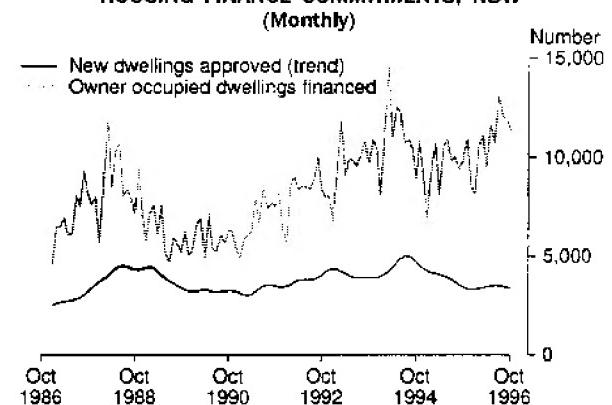
**RETAIL TURNOVER
(Trend, monthly)**



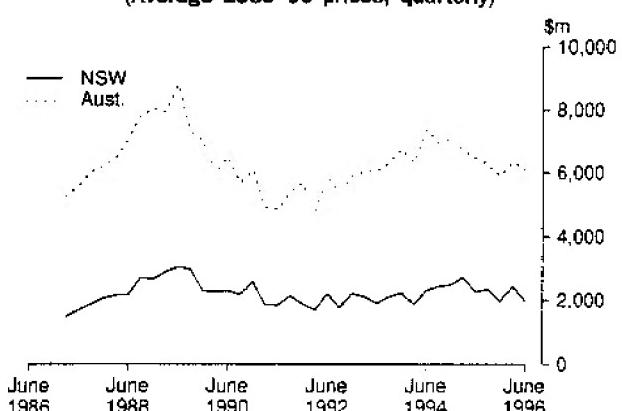
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
(Monthly)**



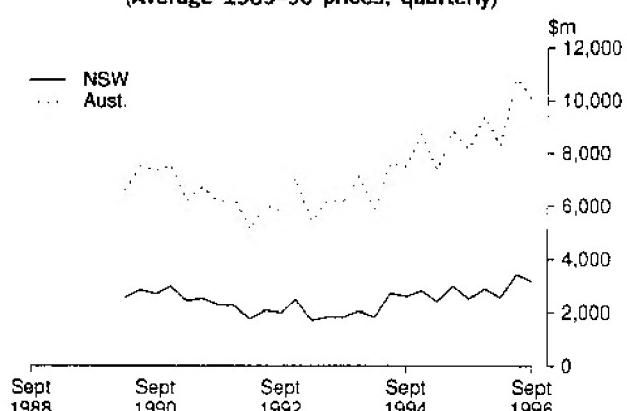
**NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW
(Monthly)**



**VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)**



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia		
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period prior year	Latest figure	Change from prior period
				%	%		Change from same period prior year
Population							
Estimated resident population	'000	Jun qtr 96	6 190	0.28	1.28	18 289	0.28
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Nov 96	4 897	0.12	1.59	14 442	0.13
Labour Force							
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	Nov 96	2 148	-0.5	0.2	6 284	-0.3
—total (original series)	'000	Nov 96	2 804	-0.5	-0.3	8 392	0.0
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Nov 96	2 800	-0.6	-0.3	8 397	0.3
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	Nov 96	216	-7.2	-5.4	737	-3.6
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	Nov 96	228	-5.1	-5.4	775	-3.9
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Nov 96	3 028	-0.9	-0.7	9 172	-0.1
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Nov 96	61.8	-1.0	-2.2	63.5	-0.2
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Nov 96	7.5	-4.2	-4.8	8.5	-3.9
Job vacancies	'000	Aug 96	25	2.9	-21.3	64	18.5
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Aug 96	6.8	-10.4	-2.2	6.8	-7.0
Average Weekly Employee Earnings							
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug 96	713.40	1.4	4.3	677.90	1.0
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug 96	610.70	1.6	5.5	569.20	0.8
Industrial Disputes —Working days lost	'000	Aug 96	19.9	-58.9	49.5	119.2	-13.4
Consumer Price Index , All Groups	1989-90=100	Sep qtr 96	120.2	0.3	2.5	120.1	0.3
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Oct 96	3 690	-0.2	4.2	10 227	-0.2
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Oct 96	17 914	-5.2	-5.2	51 205	-5.7
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Oct 96	15 379	-4.8	-5.6	42 952	-5.1
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seasonally adj.)	No.	Oct 96	2 535	-8.1	-3.1	8 252	-8.7
Production							
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Oct 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	126	0.6
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Oct 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	14 271	2.6
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Oct 96	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	49 609	-2.5
Overseas Trade							
Imports	\$m	Oct 96	3 026	7.6	0.3	7 280	16.0
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Oct 96	1 373	-9.5	3.0	6 393	7.9
Tourism							
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	Sep 96	126	-8.9	6.6	309	-6.1
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	Sep 96	108	21.4	4.7	282	26.6
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—							
Guest nights	'000	Sep qtr 96	5 519.0	6.1	-2.3	16 235.0	7.9
Room occupancy rate	%	Sep qtr 96	59.1	3.0	-1.8	58.8	4.8
Building							
Approvals—							
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Oct 96	3 671	12.7	7.8	11 121	12.8
Value of new residential building (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Oct 96	386	18.9	8.7	1 074	13.6
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Oct 96	750	60.1	73.6	1 385	21.6
Value of all building	\$m	Oct 96	1 232	33.0	42.4	2 752	18.2
Commencements—							
New dwelling units	No.	Jun qtr 96	9 883	-0.2	-18.8	29 969	5.4
Value of new residential building (c)	\$m	Jun qtr 96	991	-11.1	-17.7	2 907	2.4
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Jun qtr 96	770	-30.6	-8.4	2 640	-13.9
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Jun qtr 96	1 991	-18.2	-12.8	6 115	-4.0
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Jun qtr 96	2 269	8.3	-10.4	6 256	8.8
Engineering Construction							
Private contractors—							
Value of work commenced	\$m	Jun qtr 96	368	-27.8	-13.7	1 855	-43.2
Value of work done	\$m	Jun qtr 96	581	8.8	0.8	2 197	18.1
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Jun qtr 96	813	-17.2	-42.4	4 760	-5.6
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Jun qtr 96	855	24.3	3.0	1 918	22.1
Finance							
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Oct 96	1 651	-1.8	20.9	4 333	0.7
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Oct 96	1 035	4.3	8.9	3 065	11.7
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Oct 96	5 964	7.2	32.6	11 553	4.8
Savings balances at end of month—							
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Sep 96	130 556	-0.5	(e)	289 529	-0.1
Building societies	\$m	Sep 96	4 025	0.7	14.8	12 331	0.8
Credit unions	\$m	Sep 96	6 187	1.0	8.5	14 141	1.0
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)	\$m	Sep qtr 96	3 201	-10.6	20.5	10 161	-9.7
New buildings and structures	\$m	Sep qtr 96	978	-6.9	59.0	3 350	-9.0
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Sep qtr 96	2 223	-12.0	8.9	6 810	-10.0

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime.
 (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
 (c) Average of 1989-90 prices.
 (d) Average of weekly deposit balances.
 (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally.
 (f) By private enterprises

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
 (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally.



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ISSN 1031.8534